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## IN AN OBSERVATION PLANE

THE historic scene at Versailles was not without its humor. It revealed to the world something of national psychology.

On the one hand was Premier Clemenceau as spokesman for the associated powers and on the other Count Von Brockdorff-Rantzau as spokesman for Germany. With a regard for diplomatic proprieties characteristic of his people, Premier Clemenceau delivered his speech standing. With an impudence and arrogance characteristic of the Hun the German spokesman remained in his chair while he made his reply.

One cannot imagine the French, in defeat, demeaning themselves in such fashion. The traditions of Chevalier Bayard and of Louis the Grand, the chivalry which has given a French tone to all modern diplomacy, would have made arrogance impossible to them in such a crisis. We can imagine the French humbled in 1871; we cannot imagine them descending to anything mean and little. They would have been calm, dignified, tragic or, mayhap, pathetic in their weakness, but insolence would have been impossible to them. Their self-respect would not have permitted them to make a farce of a tragedy.

Count Von Brockdorff-Rantzau displayed that "Junker" arrogance and insolence which have stamped Prussian civilization from the time of Frederick the Great, who was accustomed to cudgel his subjects in public. Had the count, like a schoolboy, thrust out his tongue at Premier Clemenceau, he could hardly have made himself more ridiculous. His action was reminiscent of a ball held by certain Teutonic folk in Salt Lake before the United States entered the war. It was a sort of fancy dress affair and one of the guests lent uproarious hilarity by draping a British flag across the seat of his trousers with this legend on it: "Kick Me."

Some of the allied delegates were angry at the boorish count and expressed themselves in bitter criticism to interviewers. But, after all is said, the German delegates simply heaped contumely upon themselves. By acting as clowns they give historians license to regard them as clowns.

The same fantastic mentality guided the Germans in some of the crises of the war.

When they finally decided to re-

sume unrestricted submarine warfare they thought to play even with the American government for humiliating them and they could think of no finer method of insult than to suggest that we might send one ship a week through the war zone to England if we would paint it like a barber's pole. They fancied that the "laugh was on" us, but he laughs best who laughs last. And we can afford, as can our allies, to laugh at the low comedy of the Hun at the Versailles conference.

THE Salvation Army is going into the saloon business as soon as the country is dry. Plans are made to take over the barrooms of New York, mirrors, brass footrills and all, and transform them into workingmen's clubs. Of course, the free lunch is to be abandoned and there will be no kick in the drinks. Only the softest drinks will be served and the disreputable pretzel will give way to the perfectly proper sandwich and the holy doughnut.

Commander Booth and her Heutenants have learned quite a bit about the psychology of the workingmen and they are of the opinion that they can maintain non-alcoholic saloons all over the country for the use and behoof of the grimy toilers.

Soft drink parlors succeeded the alcoholic saloons in our city and met with a measure of success. But one by one these reformed barrooms have weakened and died. Today only a handful are left.

The argument for them was good. It is the argument now put forward by Commander Booth. It was contended that the toiler, having no club to attend, would avail himself of the hospitality of the beerless barrooms. He could still put his feet on the brass rail and chat with his boon companions.

But the trouble, we fear, was that his companions were not quite so boon as they were wont to be. Alcohol had its advantages in a social way. Like the negro's razor, it was dangerous, but it was useful for social purposes.

Far be it from me to re-argue the case of the saloon. The country placed itself on a distinctly higher level when it rendered its verdict (Continued on Page 10.)



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